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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330
BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

AUGUST 1985

A Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOR FORCE CONTINUES TO INCREASE

THE STEADY INFLUX OF WOMEN INTO THE NEW ENGLAND LABOR FORCE CONTINUED DURING 1984 ACCORDING TO THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS IN BOSTON. BETWEEN 1974 AND 1984, THE REGIONAL FEMALE LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, THAT IS, THE PERCENTAGE OF ALL WOMEN 16 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER WHO WERE EITHER EMPLOYED OR ACTIVELY SEEKING WORK, INCREASED NEARLY 10 PERCENTAGE POINTS FROM 48 PERCENT TO 57.6 PERCENT. IN CONTRAST, THE MALE PARTICIPATION RATE WAS 78.4 PERCENT DURING 1984 AND REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED OVER THIS PERIOD. IN ADDITION, THE FEMALE LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE OF WOMEN IN NEW ENGLAND WAS FOUR PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER THAN THE NATION. THESE DATA, AS WELL AS OTHER LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT DATA FOR STATES AND REGIONS, ARE AVAILABLE ANNUALLY FROM THE CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY.

DURING 1984, WOMEN ACCOUNTED FOR 44.8 PERCENT OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE REGION OR 2,792,000 WORKERS. THIRTY-ONE PERCENT OF THE 2.8 MILLION EMPLOYED WOMEN HELD PART-TIME JOBS (LESS THAN 35 HOURS PER WEEK) COMPARED TO ABOUT 11 PERCENT OF THE REGION'S 3.4 MILLION EMPLOYED MEN. SOME 723,000 OF THE 864,000 WOMEN WORKING PART-TIME VOLUNTARILY CHOSE TO DO SO, WHILE THE REMAINING 141,000 WOULD ACCEPT A FULL-TIME WORK SCHEDULE. AMONG MEN WORKING PART-TIME, 266,000 WERE VOLUNTARY PART-TIMERS AND 105,000 WOULD ACCEPT FULL-TIME WORK. IN TOTAL, WOMEN MADE UP 70 PERCENT OF THE REGION'S PART-TIME WORK FORCE IN 1984.

DESPITE THE INROADS THAT WOMEN HAVE MADE INTO MANY OCCUPATIONS IN RECENT YEARS, THEY CONTINUE TO REPRESENT A VERY LARGE PROPORTION OF WORKERS IN JOBS TRADITIONALLY CONSIDERED "FEMALE OCCUPATIONS." FULLY 99 PERCENT OF SECRETARIES AND TYPISTS, AND ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF ALL KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS CONTINUE TO BE WOMEN. DURING 1984, MORE THAN 45 PERCENT OF NEW ENGLAND WORKING WOMEN WERE EMPLOYED IN CLERICAL OR SERVICE OCCUPATIONS VERSUS ONLY ABOUT 16 PERCENT OF WORKING MEN.

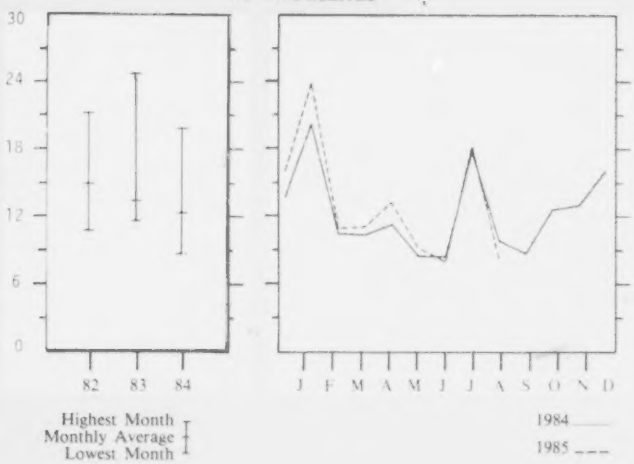
NEVERTHELESS, NATIONAL DATA ON OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY SEX INDICATE THAT WOMEN HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED THEIR NUMBERS IN MANY "NONTRADITIONAL" JOB CATEGORIES. THE PROPORTION OF ALL EMPLOYED WOMEN WHO ARE CLASSIFIED IN THE BROAD "EXECUTIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND MANAGERIAL" CATEGORY HAS NEARLY DOUBLED BETWEEN 1972 AND 1984, FROM 4.6 PERCENT TO 8.5 PERCENT. OTHER SMALLER GAINS WERE NOTED IN PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTIES, TECHNICIAN AND RELATED SUPPORT ACTIVITIES, AND PRECISION PRODUCTION, CRAFT, AND REPAIR JOBS.

ALTHOUGH WOMEN ARE ON THE PAYROLLS OF EVERY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP, THEY ARE ESPECIALLY CONCENTRATED IN THE SERVICE-PRODUCING SECTOR OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMY. ALMOST 75 PERCENT OF WOMEN WORKERS IN THE REGION'S PRIVATE SECTOR WERE EMPLOYED IN THE SERVICE SECTOR, MAINLY IN RETAIL TRADE AND HEALTH, BUSINESS AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES. INDEED, THESE ARE THE VERY INDUSTRIES THAT HAVE SHOWN CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT GROWTH OVER THE PAST DECADE AND IS A MAJOR REASON FOR THE INCREASES IN FEMALE LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND EMPLOYMENT RATIOS.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

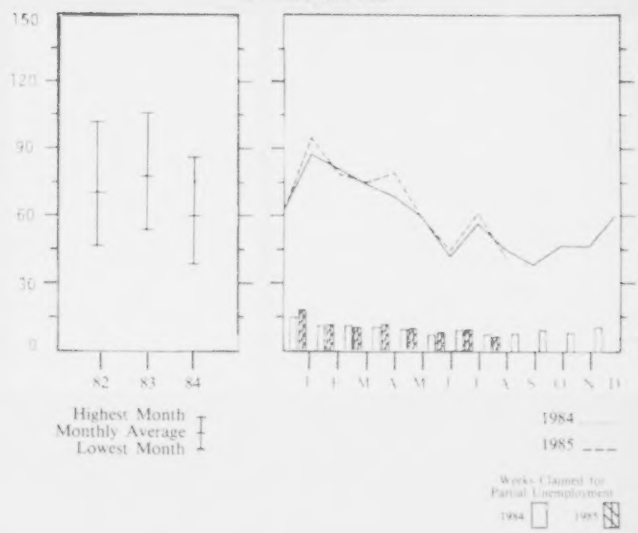
UI Initial Claims

in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed

in Thousands



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FULL- AND PART-TIME STATUS OF NEW ENGLAND EMPLOYMENT
BY SEX, 1984 ANNUAL AVERAGES

	FEMALE	% OF TOTAL	MALE	% OF TOTAL
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	2,792	100.0	3,445	100.0
FULL-TIME SCHEDULES	1,928	69.1	3,074	89.2
PART-TIME FOR ECON. REASONS	141	5.1	105	3.1
VOLUNTARY PART-TIME	725	25.9	266	7.7

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES OF NEW ENGLAND EMPLOYMENT
BY AGE, SEX AND MARITAL STATUS, 1984 ANNUAL AVERAGES

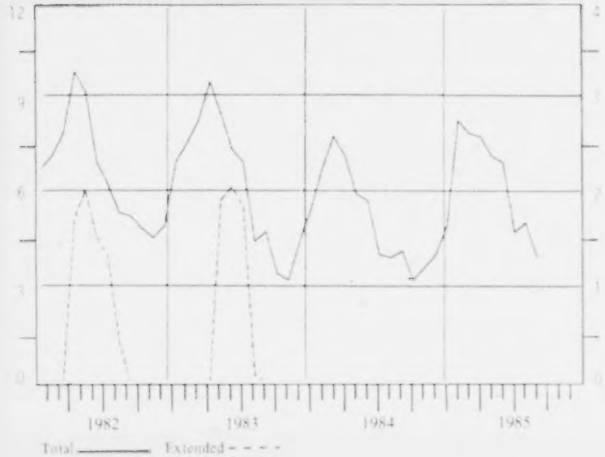
	WOMEN	MEN
TOTAL	57.6%	78.4%
16-19 YEARS	61.5	61.7
20-24 YEARS	75.9	84.8
25-34 YEARS	73.8	95.6
35-44 YEARS	72.6	96.0
45-54 YEARS	69.9	93.0
55-64 YEARS	51.3	76.5
65 AND OVER	7.4	16.0
SINGLE (NEVER MARRIED)	71.1	76.6
MARRIED, SPOUSE PRESENT	56.9	81.2
OTHER MARITAL STATUS	44.6	66.4

Selected Employment Security Activities

UI Benefit Payments

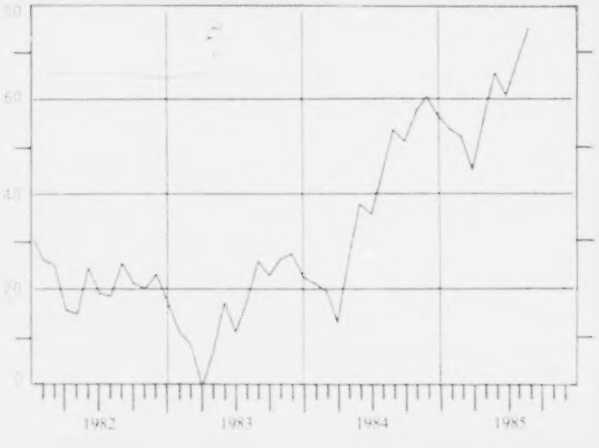
in Million Dollars

(Total Includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance in Millions

(End of Month)



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

in Thousands

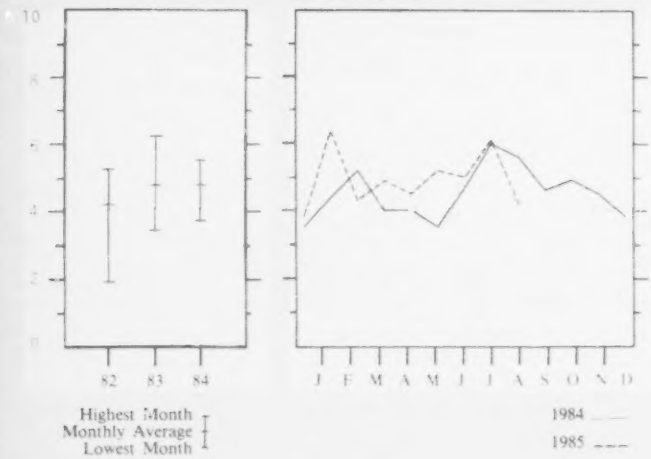
ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/	469.9	462.6	466.7	198.7	196.1	194.2	36.9	36.8	36.4
Total Manufacturing	105.1	99.9	114.4	35.6	33.6	36.5	10.8	9.9	11.7
Durable Goods	40.7	39.8	45.9	11.8	11.5	12.6	3.4	3.0	3.4
Lumber and Wood Products 2/	15.1	13.7	14.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Primary and Fabricated Metals	6.6	6.7	7.3	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.8	0.8	0.7
Machinery, except Electrical	4.9	4.8	5.2	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.5
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	9.6	9.5	9.5	2.0	2.2	2.1	0.4	0.5	0.5
Transportation Equipment	4.3	4.4	6.8	1.1	1.0	1.0	*	0.1	*
Other Durable Goods 3/	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.4
Nondurable Goods	64.3	60.0	68.5	23.8	22.1	23.9	7.4	6.9	8.3
Food and Kindred Products	9.1	8.8	9.5	1.4	1.4	1.9	0.6	0.6	0.9
Textile Mill Products	7.1	7.1	7.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.4	1.3	1.5
Apparel	4.1	3.9	4.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.8
Paper and Allied Products	15.6	15.6	15.6	7.8	7.8	7.8	3.2	3.2	3.2
Printing and Publishing	5.1	5.1	5.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.6	0.6	0.6
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.6	1.1	1.6
Leather and Leather Products	15.1	12.3	11.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.7	0.3	0.5
Footwear (except Rubber)	13.9	11.0	10.2	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.4
Other Leather Products	1.2	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.1
Other Nondurable Goods 4/	3.1	3.1	3.1	4.8	4.8	5.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total Nonmanufacturing	364.8	362.7	352.3	163.1	162.5	157.7	26.1	26.9	24.7
Mining	0.6	0.6	0.6	*	*	*	*	0.0	*
Contract Construction	23.3	22.6	22.0	6.9	6.6	6.4	1.6	1.7	1.7
Transportation and Public Utilities	20.3	20.8	20.3	8.9	8.9	8.9	1.3	1.4	1.3
Wholesale Trade	21.3	20.9	21.1	8.1	8.0	8.2	2.1	2.1	2.0
Retail Trade	74.2	73.5	73.2	32.0	32.0	32.2	6.7	6.7	6.5
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	25.1	25.0	25.1	9.4	9.4	9.0	1.6	1.6	1.6
Services	104.0	103.3	99.3	35.6	35.6	34.7	9.1	9.2	8.5
Government	75.0	80.3	77.6	42.9	43.1	42.3	3.2	3.3	3.1
Federal	15.6	16.7	16.3	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local 5/	60.4	63.7	61.3	41.2	41.4	40.7	2.9	3.0	2.8
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	4.6	4.6	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/Employment figures relate to full- and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/Lumber and wood products, and furniture and fixtures are combined in the Portland series. 3/Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 32, 38, 39; Lewiston - 25, 32, 39. 4/Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Lewiston - 23, 28, 29. 5/Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. *Less than 100. (d) Nondisclosure item.

THESE DATA ARE COMPILED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

New Applications For Work

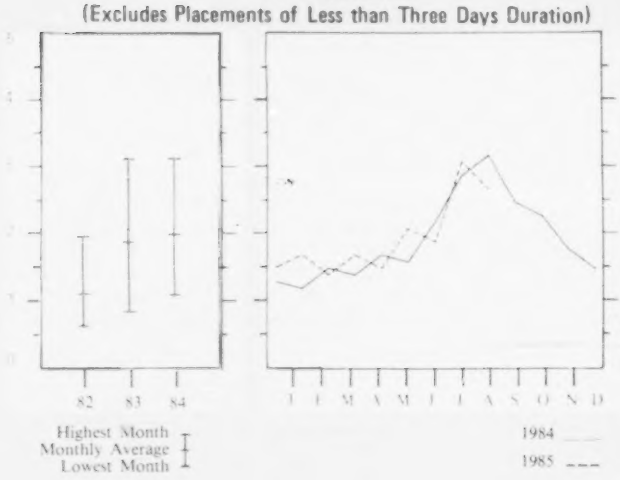
in Thousands



Nonfarm Placements

in Thousands

(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month*	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month*	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month*	Year Ago	1984	1983	1982
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	$329.96	$328.61	$321.99	40.3	40.1	39.4	$8.19	$8.20	$8.17	$8.26	$7.61	$7.21
Durable Goods	331.70	324.60	333.63	40.6	40.0	40.3	8.17	8.04	8.28	8.22	7.93	7.55
Lumber and Wood Products	343.99	336.19	319.00	41.0	40.3	41.0	8.39	8.34	7.78	8.03	7.58	6.97
Primary and Fabricated Metals	350.27	326.01	317.15	40.4	40.4	40.2	8.67	8.07	7.89	7.91	7.71	7.19
Machinery, except Electrical	364.83	366.72	350.30	40.9	40.7	40.9	8.92	9.01	8.56	8.73	8.28	7.72
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	288.00	290.73	299.60	36.4	37.4	39.1	7.91	7.78	7.66	7.81	7.38	6.74
Other Durable Goods	316.23	329.84	331.90	40.5	40.7	40.2	7.81	8.02	8.09	8.03	8.05	8.14
Nondurable Goods	326.00	327.69	314.03	40.0	40.2	38.7	8.15	8.46	8.11	8.36	7.90	7.68
Food and Kindred Products	249.70	246.65	240.12	34.3	35.1	34.1	6.30	6.32	6.31	6.34	6.16	5.98
Textile Mill Products	275.93	266.31	266.26	41.0	39.6	41.6	6.73	6.72	6.40	6.73	6.31	5.89
Apparel	204.06	202.73	195.09	35.0	34.5	34.2	5.83	5.87	5.70	5.86	5.58	5.23
Paper and Allied Products	535.23	532.34	525.85	44.3	44.0	44.3	12.08	12.11	11.87	11.83	10.86	10.18
Leather and Leather Products	215.76	226.18	204.79	37.2	37.5	36.0	5.80	6.03	5.69	5.86	5.34	5.15
Other Nondurable Goods	264.06	264.01	274.09	36.7	36.7	37.7	7.21	7.20	7.27	7.33	6.98	6.87
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	345.04	339.30	309.65	38.9	38.2	38.4	8.87	8.88	8.06	8.66	7.87	7.19
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	268.51	277.04	246.19	39.9	40.3	38.2	6.73	6.87	6.45	6.80	6.19	5.90

*Amended

Female Labor Force in Maine

in Thousands

ITEM	This Month 1/	Last Month 1/	Year Ago 2/
Labor Force	250.3	258.2	249.8
Unemployed	12.7	17.9	15.7
(Percent)	5.2	7.1	6.3
Resident Employed	237.6	235.3	233.1

U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec.
(1967=100) All Items	323.5	322.2	311.0	315.5
Percent Change for Past Month				+0.4
Percent Change from Last December				+2.5
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago				+4.0

1/ Preliminary estimates 2/ Revised

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

in Thousands

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE-Statewide	577.7	581.8	577.8	554.5	549.4	549.1	23.2	32.4	28.7	4.0	5.6	5.0
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	47,400	48,200	45,900	45,900	46,100	44,100	1,500	2,100	1,800	3.2	4.4	3.9
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	42,200	43,000	42,300	40,000	39,400	39,400	2,200	3,600	2,900	5.2	8.4	6.9
Portland MSA	107,600	109,600	106,000	105,000	105,800	102,500	2,600	3,800	3,500	2.4	3.5	3.3
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA 3/	110,760	114,180	108,150	106,930	107,350	102,670	3,830	6,830	5,480	3.5	6.0	5.1
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	31,280	31,850	31,660	30,120	30,130	30,040	1,160	1,720	1,620	3.7	5.4	5.1
Bath-Brunswick	25,280	26,120	26,930	24,350	24,870	25,910	930	1,250	1,020	3.7	4.8	3.8
Belfast	11,170	11,650	11,720	10,270	10,370	10,700	900	1,280	1,020	8.1	11.0	8.7
Biddeford	26,350	26,810	25,470	25,440	25,090	24,290	910	1,720	1,180	3.5	6.4	4.6
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	11,120	11,050	10,880	10,770	10,640	10,450	350	410	430	3.1	3.7	4.0
Calais-Eastport	14,620	16,220	22,130	13,810	15,160	21,070	810	1,060	1,060	4.1	6.5	4.8
Caribou-Presque Isle	22,320	23,090	21,840	20,860	21,350	19,350	1,460	1,740	2,340	6.5	7.5	10.8
Central Penobscot	4,590	4,710	4,460	4,410	4,460	4,280	180	250	180	3.9	5.3	4.0
Dover-Foxcroft	6,650	6,800	6,660	6,340	6,350	6,290	310	450	370	4.7	6.6	5.6
Ellsworth	28,770	26,680	27,770	28,010	25,850	26,860	760	1,030	910	2.6	3.9	3.3
Farmington	12,560	12,790	13,280	11,700	11,730	12,280	860	1,060	1,000	6.8	8.3	7.5
Fort Kent-Allagash	6,270	6,630	6,190	5,920	6,120	5,800	350	510	390	5.6	7.7	6.3
Greenville	1,660	1,680	1,760	1,590	1,590	1,640	70	90	120	4.2	5.4	6.8
Houlton	5,950	6,230	5,440	5,580	5,780	5,030	370	450	410	6.2	7.2	7.5
Kittery-York 3/	24,810	25,250	23,720	24,540	24,840	23,280	270	410	440	1.1	1.6	1.9
Lincoln-Howland	6,370	6,560	6,250	6,100	6,150	5,980	270	410	270	4.2	6.3	4.3
Livermore Falls	3,590	3,600	3,820	3,310	3,240	3,450	280	360	370	7.8	10.0	9.7
Madawaska-Van Buren	4,490	4,590	4,390	4,250	4,310	4,080	240	280	310	5.3	6.1	7.1
Millinocket-East Millinocket	5,650	5,770	5,590	5,490	5,570	5,410	160	200	180	2.8	3.5	3.2
Norway-Paris	9,610	9,670	9,910	9,080	8,960	9,240	530	710	670	5.5	7.3	6.8
Patten-Island Falls	3,070	3,170	2,690	2,940	3,020	2,570	130	150	120	4.2	4.7	4.5
Rockland	19,900	19,680	20,980	19,170	18,800	20,140	730	880	840	3.7	4.5	4.0
Rumford	9,920	10,210	9,930	9,370	9,510	9,100	550	700	830	5.5	6.9	8.4
Sanford	13,560	13,610	13,700	12,690	12,460	12,970	870	1,150	730	6.4	8.4	5.3
Sebago Lakes Region	12,360	12,180	11,670	12,030	11,720	11,240	330	460	430	2.7	3.8	3.7
Skowhegan	22,670	22,740	24,000	21,260	20,650	22,420	1,410	2,090	1,580	6.2	9.2	6.6
Southwest Penobscot	8,490	9,070	8,460	7,860	8,040	7,820	630	1,030	640	7.4	11.4	7.6
Waterville	22,360	22,760	22,460	21,390	21,580	21,330	970	1,180	1,130	4.3	5.2	5.0
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,733.3	1,672.1	n/a	1,634.4	1,601.2	n/a	98.4	70.9	n/a	5.7	4.2
Massachusetts	3,119.0	3,127.0	3,097.6	3,004.0	2,993.0	2,950.6	115.0	134.0	146.9	3.7	4.3	4.7
New Hampshire	550.6	551.9	532.1	532.0	523.8	512.4	18.6	28.1	19.7	3.4	5.1	3.7
Rhode Island	508.2	504.0	494.0	487.1	475.6	469.1	21.1	28.4	24.9	4.2	5.6	5.0
Vermont	275.2	274.5	274.1	262.7	261.2	263.0	12.5	13.4	11.2	4.5	4.9	4.1
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	6,190.8	6,069.9	n/a	5,888.5	5,796.3	n/a	302.3	273.6	n/a	4.9	4.5
UNITED STATES 4/	116,679	117,536	115,078	108,628	108,854	106,694	8,051	8,682	8,382	6.9	7.4	7.3

MSA Metropolitan Statistical Area

Note

n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.
Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.

Footnotes

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.

2/ Current and last month figures preliminary, year ago figures revised.

3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

4/ National estimates based on a sample of household units; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures removed.

THESE DATA ARE COMPILED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

Mid-Month Insured Unemployment (Less Partials)

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Number of Continued Week Claimants	7,866	11,205	8,643	1,007	1,407	921	887	1,431	1,145
Insured Unemployment Rate *	1.7	2.4	1.9	1.0	1.3	1.0	2.1	3.5	3.3

* Should not be confused with insured unemployment rates as defined in the Employment Security Law.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF NEW ENGLAND EMPLOYMENT
BY SEX, 1984 ANNUAL AVERAGES

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	WOMEN	MEN
TOTAL OCCUPATIONS	100.0%	100.0%
EXECUTIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, MANAGERIAL	8.4	13.4
PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTY	13.7	14.0
TECHNICIANS AND RELATED SUPPORT	3.8	3.0
SALES OCCUPATIONS	12.4	10.1
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, INCLUDING CLERICAL	28.3	5.4
SERVICE OCCUPATIONS	16.6	6.7
PRECISION PRODUCTION, CRAFT, AND REPAIR	2.3	20.4
MACHINE OPERATORS, ASSEMBLERS, AND INSPECTORS	9.4	9.1
TRANSPORTATION AND MATERIAL MOVING OCCUPATIONS	0.6	5.3
HANDLERS, EQUIPMENT CLEANERS, HELPERS, AND LABORERS	1.5	5.1
FARMING, FORESTRY, FISHING	0.8	2.9

SOURCE: NEWS RELEASE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, BOSTON REGIONAL OFFICE, AUGUST 7, 1985.

The Bureau of Employment Security is affiliated with the U.S. Employment and Training Administration and is a Federal-State Statistical Program Cooperative Representative of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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AUGUST 1985

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Labor Market Information Services